O Worship the King

The Temple Mount, Jerusalem
COVER: O Worship the King

On the site where the Muslim Dome of the Rock now stands—on Mount Moriah, where Abraham offered Isaac, and where King David built an altar on the purchased threshing floor of Ornam, the Jebusite—is the very spot where the Temple was built.

In front of that magnificent First Temple (970 B.C.), King Solomon prayed, “Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?” (I Ki. 8:27)

King Nebuchadnezzar, 410 years later, destroyed Jerusalem, exiling the Jews to Babylon, with the Temple vessels (II Ch. 36:18).

In King Herod’s time, the Second Temple (20-17 B.C.) reached the monumental height of its splendor. The edges of the Herodian blocks (lower original large blocks of the wall) are so carefully drafted and cut with such precision that they are set without mortar, and the joints so precise that not even a blade can be inserted. One of the largest stone blocks measures 44.6 feet in length, 11 feet in height, and 15 feet in depth, and weighs over 600 tons. The dressing on the stones is also notable—a recessed frame chiseled around the outer edge of each stone, with sometimes additional inner frames also. This retaining wall was installed to support Herod’s expansion of the Temple Mount.

In Titus’ destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Second Temple was engulfed in flames and its contents carried to Rome. His armies, in a terrible, bloody battle threw down the walls of Jerusalem and leveled its buildings until there was not “left one stone upon another” on the Temple Mount (Mt. 24:2).

After Israel recaptured the Western Wall in 1967, a vast open plaza was constructed, whereby thousands of people can gather at the Wall for prayer and for festive occasions.

Praying to our heavenly Father at the Western Wall can be a thought-provoking and interesting experience, as one shares the warm, prayer-drenched stones (Ps. 102:14) with bearded, head-covered men and kerchiefed women, with arms covered and in long dresses. As the Western Wall is always open (at night brightly lit, with cool air and a quiet atmosphere), so let us worship, in every situation, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, surrendering our will to His glory and to His purposes.
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J. Michael Haydn/Norman Clayton
Arr. by Glenda & Cheryl Macomber
In the style of Paginini

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